## **Guide for Interface Developers**

# Everything You Need to Know about EnergyPlus Input and Output

(to develop a user-friendly interface)

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INTRODUCTION INTERFACE EXPECTATIONS

#### Introduction

This document is intended to be usable by interface developers wishing to create user interfaces for EnergyPlus. It will give an overview of the essentials of the input-output structure of EnergyPlus and then will describe in detail the parts of each.

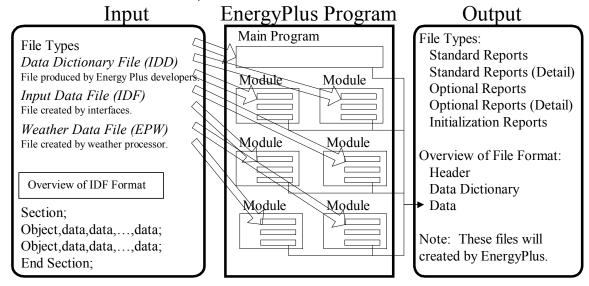


Figure 1. EnergyPlus Input/Output Overview

The diagram shown above should give the reader an overall picture of input-output in EnergyPlus. It can be seen as a linear process which includes the following steps:

- 1. The user enters building description (including internal space gains, HVAC arrangements, and Plant equipment properties) using the interface of their choice. In addition, the user specifies which non-default reports are desired and any optional variables from a predefined list of available simulation quantities.
- 2. The interface program writes the Input Data File (IDF) file, which includes the specification of any report items desired by the user.
- 3. EnergyPlus is then run using the IDF file as input data using the specifications contained in the Input Data Dictionary (IDD). Each module in EnergyPlus has a section, which reads information from the IDF file (IDF Interpreter Routines). These subroutines interpret the portion of the IDF file that is pertinent to the local module. For example, the cooling coil module may read in the coil type and its associated parameters (number of rows, tube diameter, fin spacing, etc.).
- 4. EnergyPlus produces output as required by the user into one of the output files. These files can be readily processed into spreadsheet formats for graphing and other summarizing.

#### **Interface Expectations**

The input-output interfaces may be combined into a single program or may be available separately. The following attributes are expected from these interfaces.

#### **Input Interface Attributes**

The input interface agents will be expected to fulfill two main requirements:

• Ability to produce the input file for the simulation.

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INTRODUCTION INTERFACE EXPECTATIONS

 Perform the consistency and value checks necessary to assure that the input file conforms to EnergyPlus requirements.

Additionally, the input interface agent might:

- Ability to warn users about potential output file size. It is expected that the data files generated by
  the EnergyPlus program will be significantly larger than the output files from its parent programs.
  As a result, users may be unaware that selecting too many reports could lead to enormous output
  files. It is recommended that some sort of checking be done to alert users when the term of the
  simulation and the number of reports selected eclipse some reasonable file size limit.
- Ability to perform parametric runs.

The method used by the input interface agent to accomplish these goals is left to the discretion of the interface programmer.

#### **Post-processing Interface Attributes**

The post-processing agents will be expected to fulfill the main requirement:

- Ability to read all or selected output formats.
  - Additionally, a post-processing agent might:
- Ability to combine and summarize data (average, peak, total, etc.) and produce the various text and graphical reports requested by the user.
- Ability to handle multiple output files.

The method used by the post-processing agent to accomplish these goals is left to the discretion of the interface programmer.

INPUT OVERVIEW INPUT RULES

#### **Input Overview**

The general structure of the input files for EnergyPlus is plain text. Fields are comma delimited and each "line" is terminated with a semicolon. This allows for a very rudimentary input processor that can be instantly flexible to developer's needs. However, it puts more burden on the EnergyPlus developers to process the input information, supply defaults as needed, perform validity checks. Guidelines were established for the input:

- Input will be a flat ASCII file with comma-delimited columns and each "line" (where each line can run over several physical file records) terminated with a semicolon.
- Input should be "readable", "editable", "simply parsed with few value checks or consistency checks".
- Input, to the extent possible, should be easily maintainable and extendable.
- Input will be "object based".
- Definitions in a data dictionary will define the input. The data dictionary should be selfdocumenting.
- All input units will be metric (SI). Conversions from "user units" will be done in the interface agents. Two input files are necessary for the input processing. The first is the "data dictionary" which will specify the requirements for each item. The EnergyPlus Input Processor uses these requirements to process the "input data file" and report any anomalies found. Both input files have similar structures: 1) Sections single lines/commands which may help group the simulation input for readability and 2) Classes/Objects data attributes for the simulation. Classes are the term used in the data dictionary each class will specify the kind of data (alpha or numeric) that will be included in the simulation input. Objects are instances of these classes and appear in the IDF with appropriate data.

#### **Input Rules**

The following rules apply to both the Input Data Dictionary and the Input Data File.

- The initial line of a definition or input MUST have a comma or semicolon.
- Commas delimit fields therefore, no fields can have embedded commas. No error will occur but you won't get what you want.
- Blank lines are allowed.
- The comment character is a exclamation "!". Anything on a line after the exclamation is ignored.
- Input records can be up to 500 characters in length. If you go over that, no error will occur but you won't get what you want.
- Each Section and Class/Object keyword can be up to 40 characters in length. Embedded spaces are allowed, but are significant (if you have 2 spaces in the section keyword you must have 2 when you write the object keyword).
- Each Alpha string (including Section and Class/Object keywords) is mapped to UPPER case during
  processing. Get routines from the EnergyPlus code that use the Section and Object keywords
  automatically map to UPPER case for finding the item. The primary drawback with this is that error
  messages coming out of the input processor will be in UPPER case and may not appear exactly as input.
- Special characters, such as tabs, should NOT be included in the file.

#### **Input Data Dictionary**

The input data dictionary specifies the "definitions" for each line that will be processed in the input data file.

Structure in the input data dictionary allows for descriptions that may be useful for interface developers. The Input Processor ignores everything but the essentials for getting the "right stuff" into the program. Developers have been (and will continue to be) encouraged to include comments and other documentation in the IDD.

INPUT OVERVIEW INPUT DATA FILE

Internal to the data dictionary (using special "comment" characters) is a structured set of conventions for including information on each object. This is shown in section on Input Details below.

#### **Rules for the Input Data Dictionary**

In addition to the rules for both files (listed above), the IDD also has the limitation:

 Duplicate Section names and Duplicate Class names are not allowed. That is, the first class of an item named X will be the one used during processing. Error messages will appear if you try to duplicate definitions.

#### **Input Data File**

This is the only file that EnergyPlus uses to create the building simulation. The input is order-independent, data can appear in any order and will be retrieved and sorted as necessary by the EnergyPlus simulation modules. In addition, EnergyPlus allocates everything dynamically, so there are no limitations as to number of zones, surfaces, etc.

All numbers can be flexibly input and are processed into single precision variables (i.e. 1.0, 1.000, 1, .1E+1 are all processed equally).

#### Rules specific to Input Data file:

 Each Alpha string in the input data file can be up to 40 characters in length. Anything beyond that is truncated.

#### **Input Details**

This document does not cover the input "classes" in detail. For details on each class and examples of both input and output resulting from that class/object, please view the Input Output Reference document. In this document, we will show the "conventions" used in the IDD and provide limited examples for illustration purposes.

An intelligent editor (IDFEditor) has been written and can be used as an illustration of how the comments in the IDD might be used by Interface Developers to guide their developments. IDFEditor is included in the beta version and is described in the Getting Started document.

A full example of a very simple IDF is included in Appendix A to this document.

#### **IDD Conventions**

The following is a basic description of the structure of the IDD (it's actually taken directly from the IDD file). As noted within, ! signifies a comment character as does the \. \ has also been adopted as a convention for including more specific comments about each field in an object. These have been used with success in the IDFEditor and it is hoped the flexibility will provide other interface developers with useful information. Not all fields are filled in as of yet in the existing IDD – that will come over time.

	*
bject Descript	ion
Cach data item Jumber each A a arrays that are All alpha field	pject (a record with data), develop a key word that is unique to the object can be A (Alphanumeric string) or N (numeric) and N. This will show how the data items will be put into the passed to the Input Processor "Get" (GetObjectItem) routings are limited to 40 characters. Numeric fields should be valuable such as 1.0E+05) and are placed into single precision
Object Document	ation
	<mark></mark>
	e following special comments appear one per line and
	a value. Comments may apply to a field, and object
or a group of o	<mark>bjects.</mark>
'ield-level com	menta:
\field	Name of field
\field	Name of field  (should be succinct and readable, blanks are encouraged
	Name of field
\field	Name of field     (should be succinct and readable, blanks are encouraged  Note describing the field and its valid values  d To flag fields which may not be left blank
\field \note \required-fiel	Name of field (should be succinct and readable, blanks are encouraged) Note describing the field and its valid values
\field \note	Name of field     (should be succinct and readable, blanks are encouraged  Note describing the field and its valid values  d To flag fields which may not be left blank     (this comment has no "value")  Units (must be from EnergyPlus standard units list)
\field \note \required-fiel	Name of field    (should be succinct and readable, blanks are encouraged  Note describing the field and its valid values  d To flag fields which may not be left blank    (this comment has no "value")
\field \note \required-fiel \units	Name of field     (should be succinct and readable, blanks are encouraged  Note describing the field and its valid values  d To flag fields which may not be left blank     (this comment has no "value")  Units (must be from EnergyPlus standard units list) EnergyPlus units are standard SI units
\field \note \required-fiel	Name of field     (should be succinct and readable, blanks are encouraged  Note describing the field and its valid values  d To flag fields which may not be left blank     (this comment has no "value")  Units (must be from EnergyPlus standard units list)
\field \note \required-fiel \units	Name of field     (should be succinct and readable, blanks are encouraged  Note describing the field and its valid values  d To flag fields which may not be left blank     (this comment has no "value")  Units (must be from EnergyPlus standard units list) EnergyPlus units are standard SI units
\field \note \required-fiel \units \ip-units \minimum	Name of field     (should be succinct and readable, blanks are encouraged  Note describing the field and its valid values  d To flag fields which may not be left blank     (this comment has no "value")  Units (must be from EnergyPlus standard units list) EnergyPlus units are standard SI units  IP-Units (for use by input processors with IP units)  Minimum that includes the following value
\field \note \required-fiel \units \ip-units	Name of field     (should be succinct and readable, blanks are encouraged  Note describing the field and its valid values  d To flag fields which may not be left blank     (this comment has no "value")  Units (must be from EnergyPlus standard units list) EnergyPlus units are standard SI units  IP-Units (for use by input processors with IP units)

```
\maximum<
                  Maximum that must be < than the following value
              Default for the field (if N/A then omit entire line)
  \default
   \type
                   Type of data for the field -
                     integer
                     real
                     alpha
                             (arbitrary string),
                              (alpha with specific list of choices, see \key)
                     object-list (link to a list of objects defined elsewhere,
                                 see \object-list and \reference)
                   Possible value for "\type choice" (blanks are significant)
   \key
                     use multiple \key lines to indicate all valid choices
  \object-list
                   Name of a list of object names which are valid entries
                     for this field (used with "\reference")
                     see ZONE and SURFACE objects below for examples
   \reference
                   Name of a list of object names to which this object belongs
                     used with "\type object-list" and with "\object-list"
                     see ZONE and SURFACE objects below for examples:
                        ZONE,
                         A1 , \field Zone Name
                              \type alpha
                              \reference ZoneNames
                         A7 , \field Interior Environment
                              \note Zone the surface is a part of
                              \type object-list
                              \object-list ZoneNames
                     For each zone, the field "Zone Name" may be referenced
                     by other objects, such as SURFACE, so it is commented
                     with "\reference ZoneNames"
                     Fields which reference a zone name, such as a SURFACE's
                     "Interior Environment", are commented as
                     "\type object-list" and "\object-list ZoneNames"
 Object-level comments:
                 Memo describing the object
                   To flag objects that should appear only once in an idf
   \unique-object
                    (this comment has no "value")
 \required-object To flag objects that are required in every idf
                    (this comment has no "value")
 Group-level comments:
  \group Name for a group of related objects
! Notes on comments
!! 1. If a particular comment is not applicable (such as units, or default)
! then simply omit the comment rather than indicating N/A.
!! 2. Memos and notes should be brief (recommend 5 lines or less per block).
! More extensive explanations are expected to be in the user documentation
```

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#### The LOCATION object will serve as an example.

```
Location,
A1 , \field LocationName
   \type alpha
N1 , \field Latitude
   \units deg
   \type real
N2 , \field Longitude
   \units deg
   \type real
N3 , \field TimeZone
   \units hr (decimal)
   \type real
N4 ; \field Elevation
   \units m
   \type real
```

For the purposes of this example, the IDD snippet above is somewhat abbreviated from the true definition that you will find in the IDD file and below in the more complete description of the Location object.

First, the object name is given. (Location) This is followed by a comma in both the definition (IDD) and in an input file (IDF). In fact, all fields except the terminating field of an IDD class object and IDF object are followed by commas. The final field in an IDD class object or in an IDF object is terminated by a semi-colon.

Next is an alpha field, the location name. As noted above, for input, spaces are significant in this field. The main inputs for Location are numeric fields. These are numbered (as is the alpha field) for convenience. The \ designations will show various information about the objects as described above in the IDD conventions discussion. Of importance for reading this document are the units and possible minimum and maximum values for a field.

A feature added for Beta 4 is the automatic processing of the \minimum, \maximum and \default data for numeric fields. Any infractions of the \minimum, \maximum fields are now automatically detected and messages will appear in the standard error file. After all the input is checked, infractions will cause program termination (before the bulk of the simulation is completed). Defaults are also enforced if you leave the numeric field blank.

Some objects need all the parameters listed by the definition; some do not. In the descriptions that follow, we will try to indicate which parts are optional. Usually, these will be the last fields in the object input or definition.

#### **Using the Input-Output Reference Document**

To assist you in using the Input Output Reference document, it is grouped similarly to the IDD file. These groups are described now.

#### Group -- Location - Climate - Weather File Access

This group of objects (Location, RunPeriod, DesignDay, GroundTemperatures) describe the ambient conditions for the simulation.

#### **Group -- Simulation Parameters**

This group of objects (Building, Timestep in Hour, Sky Radiance Distribution, Inside Convection Algorithm, Outside Convection Algorithm, Shadowing Calculations, Zone Volume Capacitance Multiplier) influence the simulation in various ways.

#### **Group -- Surface Construction Elements**

This group of objects describes the physical properties and configuration for the building envelope and interior elements. That is, the walls, roofs, floors, windows, doors for the building.

#### Group - Schedules

This group of objects allows the user to influence scheduling of many items (such as occupancy density, lighting, thermostatic controls, occupancy activity). In addition, schedules are used to control shading element density on the building.

#### Group -- Thermal Zone Description/Geometry

Without thermal zones and surfaces, the building can't be simulated. This group of objects (Zone, Surface:HeatTransfer, Surface:HeatTransfer:Sub, Surface:HeatTransfer:InternalMass, Surface:Shading:Detached, Surface:Shading:Attached) describes the thermal zone characteristics as well as the details of each surface to be modeled. Included here are shading surfaces.

#### Group -- Space Gains

Not all the influence for energy consumption in the building is due to envelope and ambient conditions. This group of objects describes other internal gains that may come into play (People, Lights, Various Equipment Types).

#### Group - Air Flow

An important characteristic of energy consumption in buildings is the air flow between zones and due to natural ventilation (e.g. open windows). This group of objects describes those elements.

#### Group - Zone Thermostats

This group of objects bridges the gap between thermal zone requirements and HVAC. These items specify what temperatures and other specifics are needed in each zone.

#### **HVAC -- Simulation Groups**

The HVAC groups (Node-Branch Management, Loops, Plant Control, Air Distribution, Plant Equipment, Coils, Air Loop Components, Terminal Unit Components, Radiant Convective Units, System Managers, Controllers) are intertwined.

#### Supplemental Groups

Two groups (Fluid Properties, Performance Curves) allow the user to specify pieces of data or models that often are embedded in simulation programs.

#### Group - Report

There are two kinds of reports currently available.

Extensive detail is available for most of the input objects using the "Report Variable" object. These can appear at a variety of detail levels in the standard output file (**eplusout.eso**). Using these will be crucial in displaying the results to your users.

There are some canned reports available. These address various details of a one-time nature (such as Conduction Transfer Function calculations or displaying surface vertices). One critical report for interface developers is the "Variable Dictionary" report. With this report, all of the "key" strings to specify report variables in the input files can be determined. Note that not all available report variables will be shown in this report – only those that will be used by the input file that generated the file.

An overall view of reports and report variables is included later in this document.

#### **Standard EnergyPlus Units**

EnergyPlus expects information in a single unit system (SI). This requires interface developers to convert user inputs from those preferred by architects and engineers into the standard metric units of EnergyPlus. EnergyPlus will not perform any units conversions and will not have any unit conversion routines.

ASCII with no spaces is used for abbreviations. Note that exponents appear without any indication of exponentiation: i.e., kg/m³ not kg/m³3 or kg/m³\*3. Also note the use of dashes. We have W/m²-K not W/m²\*K or W/(m²\*K).

At the end we note the "problem" variables – the inputs that have non-standard units. Inputs using these units will have to be changed and the code checked to see how the quantities are used internally.

Table 1. Standard EnergyPlus Units

Quantity	unit	abbreviation
angular degrees	degree	deg
Length	meter	m
Area	square meter	m2
Volume	cubic meter	m3
Time	seconds	s
Frequency	Hertz	Hz
Temperature	Celsius	С
absolute temperature	Kelvin	Κ
temperature difference	Kelvin	delK
speed	meters per second	m/s
energy (or work)	Joules	J
power	Watts	W
mass	kilograms	kg
force	Newton	N
mass flow	kilograms per second	kg/s
volume flow	cubic meters per second	m3/s
pressure	Pascals	Pa
pressure difference	Pascals	delPa
specific enthalpy	Joules per kilogram	J/kg
density	kilograms per cubic meter	kg/m3
heat flux	watts per square meter	W/m2
specific heat		J/kg-K
conductivity		W/m-K
diffusivity		m2/s
heat transfer coefficient		W/m2-K
R-value		m2-K/W
heating or cooling capacity	Watts	W
electric potential	volts	V
electric current	Amperes	Α

INPUT DETAILS ENERGYPLUS REPORTS

illuminace	lux	lx
luminous flux	lumen	lm
luminous intensity	candelas	cd
luminance	candelas per square meter	cd/m2
vapor diffusivity	m2/s	
viscosity (absolute)		kg/m-s
viscosity temperature derivative		kg/m-s-K
density temperature derivative		kg/m3-K
Prandtl number temperature derivative		1/K
porosity		m3/m3
thermal gradient coeff for moisture capacity		kg/kg-K
conductivity temperature derivative		W/m-K2
isothermal moisture capacity		m3/kg

There are some problem units that haven't been addressed yet: conductivity temperature derivative {W/m-K2 \* 10^-5}

#### **EnergyPlus Reports**

Several items are used to specify what will appear in the output file(s). The output is described in the next section of this document.

#### **Reports**

Several reports have been installed in EnergyPlus.

```
Report,
Al , \field Type_of_Report
   \type choice
   \key Variable Dictionary
   \key Surfaces
   \key Construction
A2 ; \field Name_of_Report
   \note only applicable to key=Surfaces
   \type choice
   \key DXF
   \key BXF
   \key BXRAW
   \key LINES
```

#### Surfaces

Surfaces can be reported in several ways:

```
Report, Surfaces, DXF;
```

The above IDF specification will produce a DXF file (**eplusout.dxf**) of the surfaces in the IDF file. Several software programs can render this file into something viewable. For example:

INPUT DETAILS REPORTS

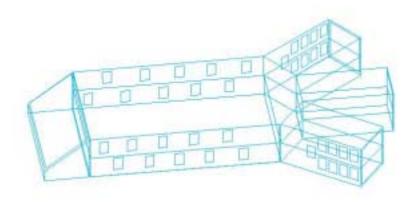


Figure 2. Example building from DXF report.

Report, Surfaces, lines;

The above IDF line will produce a simple file of line segments that constitute the surfaces in the IDF file.

The following shows an excerpt of "lines" report (**eplusout.sln**) for a single surface. It gives the coordinates in the "standard" EnergyPlus fashion (that is, UpperLeftCorner first and proceeding around, in this case, the four vertices in the surface.

0.00,	0.00,	4.57,	0.00,	0.00,	0.00
0.00,	0.00,	0.00,	15.24,	0.00,	0.00
15.24,	0.00,	0.00,	15.24,	0.00,	4.57
15.24,	0.00,	4.57,	0.00,	0.00,	4.57

#### **Variable Dictionary**

This report (**eplusout.rdd**) may be necessary before you can ask for specific output variables. Variables available, to some extent, depend on the simulation input. Variables are "set up" during the initial "get input" processing done within the modules. Therefore, an item that is specific to a certain type of coil would not be available if that coil were not used during the simulation. This command will produce a list of variables available for reporting.

Report, Variable Dictionary;

An example of the results:

INPUT DETAILS REPORTS

```
Program Version, EnergyPlus, 1.0, Beta 1, Build 012
Var Type, Var Report Type, Variable Name [Units]
Zone,Average,Outdoor Dry Bulb [C]
Zone, Average, Outdoor Barometric Pressure [Pa]
Zone, Average, Outdoor Wet Bulb [C]
Zone, Average, Outdoor Humidity [kgWater/kgAir]
Zone, Average, Wind Speed [m/s]
Zone, Average, Wind Direction [degree]
Zone, Average, Sky Temperature [C]
Zone, Average, Diffuse Solar [W/m2]
Zone,Average,Direct Solar [W/m2]
Zone, Average, Ground Reflected Solar [W/m2]
Zone,Average,Ground Temperature [C]
Zone, Average, Outdoor Dew Point [C]
Zone,Sum,Zone Latent Load[J]
Zone,Sum,Lights Return Air Load[J]
Zone, Sum, BaseBoard Heating[J]
Zone,Sum,Electric Load[J]
Zone,Sum,Gas Equipment Load[J]
Zone, Sum, Infiltration Heat Loss[J]
Zone, Sum, Infiltration Heat Gain[J]
Zone,Average,Mean Air Temperature[C]
Zone,Average,Number of Occupants[]
Zone,Average,Surface Inside Temperature[C]
Zone, Average, Surface Outside Temperature[C]
Zone,Average,Mean Radiant Temperature[C]
```

```
HVAC, Sum, Zone/Sys Sensible Heating Energy[J]
HVAC, Sum, Zone/Sys Sensible Cooling Energy[J]
HVAC, Average, Zone/Sys Sensible Heating Rate[W]
HVAC, Average, Zone/Sys Sensible Cooling Rate[W]
HVAC, Average, Zone/Sys Air Temp[C]
HVAC, Average, Zone Air Humidity Ratio[]
HVAC, Sum, HVACManage Iterations
HVAC, Average, System Node Temp[C]
HVAC, Average, System Node MassFlowRate[kg/s]
HVAC, Average, System Node Humidity Ratio
HVAC, Sum, SimAir Iterations
HVAC, Average, Fan Power[W]
HVAC, Average, Fan Delta Temp[C]
HVAC,Sum,Fan Energy[J]
HVAC, Sum, Total Water Coil Energy[J]
HVAC, Sum, Sensible Water Coil Energy[J]
HVAC, Average, Total Water Coil Rate[W]
HVAC, Average, Sensible Water Coil Rate[W]
HVAC, Sum, ZoneAirEq Iterations
HVAC, Average, Plant Loop Demand[W]
HVAC, Average, Unmet Plant Loop Demand[W]
HVAC, Average, Plant Loop Bypass Fraction
HVAC, Sum, Variable Speed Pump Energy[J]
HVAC, Average, Variable Speed Pump Power[W]
HVAC,Average,Chiller Power[W]
HVAC, Average, Chiller Evap Heat Trans Rate[W]
HVAC, Average, Chiller Cond Heat Trans Rate[W]
HVAC, Average, Chiller Cond Water Outlet Temp[C]
HVAC, Average, Chiller Evap Water Outlet Temp[C]
HVAC, Average, Chiller Evap Water mass flow rate[kg/s]
HVAC, Average, Chiller Cond Water mass flow rate[kg/s]
HVAC, Sum, Purchased Chilled Water Energy[J]
HVAC, Average, Purchased Chilled Water Rate[W]
HVAC,Sum,Purchased Hot Water Energy[J]
HVAC, Average, Purchased Hot Water Rate[W]
HVAC, Average, Condenser Loop Demand[W]
HVAC, Average, Unmet Condenser Loop Demand[W]
HVAC, Average, Condenser Loop Bypass Fraction
```

"Zone" variables are calculated and can be reported after each Zone/Heat Balance timestep (ref: TimeSteps in Hour command). "HVAC" variables are calculated and can be reported with each variable HVAC timestep. "Average" variables will be averaged over the time interval being reported whereas "sum" variables are summed over that time interval.

INPUT DETAILS REPORT VARIABLE

#### **Constructions**

This is one of the reports that will appear in the "eplusout.eio" file. It will show the calculated conduction transfer functions for each construction.

```
Report, Constructions;
```

#### And the example output:

```
! <Construction>,Construction Name, #Layers, #CTFs, Thermal Conductance {w/m2-K},
! Outer Thermal Absorpt ance, Inner Thermal Absorpt ance, Outer Solar Absorpt ance, Inner Solar Absorpt ance, Roughness and Park Foundation (No. 1997) an
! <Material>, Material Name, Thickness {m}, Conductivity {w/m-K}, Density {kg/m3},
!Specific Heat \{J/kg-K\}, Resistance \{m2-K/w\}
! <CTF>, Time, Outside, Cross, Inside, Flux (except final one)
  Construction, R13WALL, 1, 1, 0.900, 0.900, 0.750,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        0.750,Rough
  Material, R13LAYER, 0.0000,
                                                                                                                             0.000E+00,
                                                                                                                                                                                                             0.000,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           0.000,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     2.291
                                                                     0.0000000
                                                                                                                                                              0.0000000
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      0.0000000
  CTF.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            0.0000000
                          1,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ,
                                0,
                                                                   0.43649727
                                                                                                                                                             0.43649727
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        0.43649727
   CTF,
```

#### **Report Variable**

As shown above in the report variable dictionary, there are many variables available for reporting.

Each Report Variable object causes a specific number assignment for outputs. For example, you could request separate reporting for the outside temperature:

```
report variable,*,outdoor dry bulb,timestep;
report variable,*,outdoor dry bulb,hourly;
report variable,*,outdoor dry bulb,monthly;
```

And the following would appear in the standard output file:

```
6,2,Environment,Outdoor Dry Bulb [C] !TimeStep
7,2,Environment,Outdoor Dry Bulb [C] !Hourly
8,2,Environment,Outdoor Dry Bulb [C] !Monthly [Value,Min,Day,Hour,Minute,Max,Day,Hour,Minute]
```

Item # 6 will be listed following the TimeStep timestamp for each timestep. Item #7 will be listed following an hourly timestamp. And item #8 will be listed following a monthly timestamp and has additional fields (because it is an "average" variable) that show the minimum and maximum values with identifying times for those minimum and maximum. An excerpt will illustrate:

```
2, 1, 7,21, 0, 1, 0.00,15.00,Monday - timestep timestamp
6,17.08889
48,21.39851
49,0.0000000E+00
53,0.0000000E+00
60,21.87214
2, 1, 7,21, 0, 1, 0.00,60.00,Monday - hourly timestamp
7,16.75555
4, 1, 7 - monthly timestamp
8,22.77037,15.00000,21, 4,60,32.77778,21,14,60
```

To interpret, the first value (#6) is 17.09°C, #7 is 16.76°C (average for the hour), and #8 is 22.77°C, the average for the month with the low (minimum) of 15°C occurring on 7/21 4:60 (or 5:00) and the high (maximum) occurring on 7/21 14:60 (or 15:00).

INPUT DETAILS REPORT VARIABLE

#### Field: Key\_Value

This alpha field can be used to make a specific reference for reporting. In addition to the generic variable names listed in the Report Variable Dictionary for the input file, variables will also have a key designator (such as Zone name or Surface name). You can reference the standard output file (**eplusout.eso**) to see just how these look.

```
41,2,ZN001:WALL004,Surface Inside Temperature[C]
42,2,ZN001:WALL004,Surface Outside Temperature[C]
43,2,ZN001:WALL004,Surface Int Convection Coeff[W/m2-K]
44,2,ZN001:WALL004,Surface Ext Convection Coeff[W/m2-K]
46,2,ZONE ONE,Mean Radiant Temperature[C]
47,2,ZONE ONE,Zone-Total Latent Gain[J]
51,2,ZONE ONE,Zone-Total Electric Consumption[J]
58,2,ZONE ONE,Zone/Sys Air Temp[C]
```

For example, in the previous block, the key for the surface variables is **ZN001:WALL004** whereas the key for the zone variables is **ZONE ONE** (note that the space is required and significant for this key).

You can have all keys listed in the standard output file by putting a "\*" in this field or you can have specific items listed by putting in a key value.

#### **Field: Variable Name**

This alpha field is the variable name (you don't have to put on the units) that is shown in the Report Variable Dictionary file.

#### Field: Reporting\_Frequency

This field specifies how often the variable will be listed in the output file. "**Detailed**" will list the value each calculation step (i.e. Zone or HVAC). "**TimeStep**" will be the same as "detailed" for Zone valued variables and will be aggregated to the Zone timestep (i.e. TimeStep in Hour value) for HVAC variables. "**Hourly**" will aggregate the value to the hour. "**Daily**" will aggregate to the day (i.e. one value per day). "**Monthly**" will aggregate to the month (i.e. one value per month). "**RunPeriod**" will aggregate to the runperiod specified (each Design Day is a run period as is each runperiod object).

#### Field: Schedule\_Name

The final field is a schedule name. This can be used to limit the number of lines that appear in your output file. For example, a schedule such as "ON PEAK" or "OFF PEAK" could provide a slice of values. Or, a seasonal schedule could be devised.

#### Other IDF examples:

```
Report Variable, * , Mean Air Temperature, hourly;
Report Variable, * , Mean Radiant Temperature, timestep;
Report Variable, * , Zone/Sys Sensible Heating Energy, hourly;
Report Variable, * , Zone/Sys Sensible Cooling Energy, hourly;
Report Variable, * , Zone/Sys Air Temp, hourly;
```

OUTPUT REPORT VARIABLE

#### **Output**

EnergyPlus produces several output files as shown in the section on "Running EnergyPlus". This section will discuss the data contained in the "standard" output file (**eplusout.eso**). It, too, has a data dictionary but unlike the input files, the output data dictionary is contained within the output file. Thus, the basic structure of the standard output file is:

```
Data Dictionary Information
End of Data Dictionary
Data
...
Data
End of Data
```

As with the IDF structure, there are rules associated with the interpretation of the standard output data dictionary. These rules are summarized as follows:

- The first item on each line is an integer which represents the "report code". This "report code" will be listed in the data section where it will also be the first item on each line, identifying the data. Only 2 lines in the output file will not have an integer as the first item ("End of Data Dictionary" and "End of Data" lines).
- The second item on each line is also an integer. This integer corresponds to the number of items left on the dictionary line. Each string consists of a variable name and units in square brackets. Square brackets are required for all strings. If there are no units associated with a particular variable, then there are no characters between the brackets.

Six standard items appear at the start of every EnergyPlus Standard Output File Data Dictionary:

```
Program Version, EnergyPlus, 1.0, Beta 2, Build 017

1,5,Environment Title[],Latitude[degrees],Longitude[degrees],Time Zone[],Elevation[m]

2,6,Day of Simulation[],Month[],Day of Month[],DST Indicator[1=yes 0=no], Hour[], StartMinute[], EndMinute[], DayType

3,3,Cumulative Day of Simulation[],Month[],Day of Month[],DST Indicator[1=yes 0=no],DayType

4,2,Cumulative Days of Simulation[],Month[]

5,1,Cumulative Days of Simulation[]
```

Item 0 is the program version statement.

Item 1 is produced at the beginning of each new "environment" (design day, run period).

Item 2 is produced prior to any variable reported at the timestep or hourly intervals. Hourly intervals will be shown with a start minute of 0.0 and an end minute of 60.0. Timestep intervals will show the appropriate start and end minutes.

Item 3 is produced prior to any variable reported at the daily interval.

Item 4 is produced prior to any variable reported at the monthly interval.

Item 5 is produced prior to any variable reported at the end of the "environment".

Following these five standard lines will be the variables requested for reporting from the input file (ref. Report Variable). For example:

```
6,2,Environment,Outdoor Dry Bulb [C] !Hourly
21,2,ZONE ONE,Mean Air Temperature[C] !Hourly
22,2,ZONE ONE,Zone-Total Latent Gain[J] !Hourly
26,2,ZONE ONE,Zone-Total Electric Consumption[J] !Hourly
```

This example illustrates the non-consecutive nature of the "report codes". Internally, EnergyPlus counts each variable that *could* be reported. This is the assigned "report code". However, the user may not request each possible variable for reporting. Note that, currently, the requested reporting frequency is shown as a comment (!) line in the standard output file.

The data is produced when the actual simulation is performed (after the warmup days). Data output is simpler in format than the data dictionary lines. From the dictionary above:

OUTPUT REPORT VARIABLE

```
1,DENVER COLORADO WINTER, 39.75,-104.87, -7.00,1610.26
     2, 1, 1,21, 0, 1, 0.00,60.00, Monday
6,-17.22222
21,-17.22219
22,0.0000000E+00
26,0.0000000E+00
     2, 1, 1,21, 0, 2, 0.00,60.00,Monday
6,-17.22222
21,-17.22219
22,0.0000000E+00
26,0.0000000E+00
     2, 1, 1,21, 0, 3, 0.00,60.00, Monday
6,-17.22222
21,-17.22219
22,0.0000000E+00
26,0.0000000E+00
```

This output file can be easily turned into a form that is read into commonly used spreadsheet programs where it can be further analyzed, graphed, etc.

#### **Solar Shading Test**

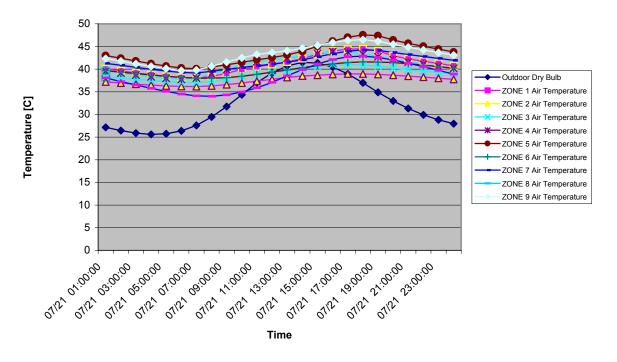


Figure 3. Example Chart from Standard Output File

#### **Weather Data**

Weather data in EnergyPlus is a simple text-based format, similar to the input data and output data files. The weather data format includes basic location information in the first eight lines: location (name, state/province/region, country), data source, latitude, longitude, time zone, elevation, peak heating and cooling design conditions, holidays, daylight saving period, typical and extreme periods, two lines for comments, and period covered by the data. The data are also commaseparated and contain much of the same data in the TMY2 weather data set (NREL 1995). EnergyPlus does not require a full year or 8760 (or 8784) hours in its weather files. In fact, EnergyPlus allows and reads subsets of years and even sub-hourly (5 minute, 15 minute) data—the weather format includes a 'minutes' field. EnergyPlus comes with a utility that reads standard weather service file types such as TD1440 and DATSAV2 and newer 'typical year' weather files such as TMY2 and WYEC2.

The "data dictionary" for EnergyPlus Weather Data is shown below. Note that semi-colons do NOT terminate lines in the EnergyPlus Weather Data.

Note that in the header records where "date" is used, the interpretation is similar to the earlier description (see **Error! Reference source not found.**). For clarity, the interpretations are listed here along with Weather file header applicability.

Field Contents	Interpretation	Header Applicability
<number></number>	Julian Day of Year	All date fields
<number> / <number></number></number>	Month / Day	All date fields
<number> Month</number>	Day and Month	All date fields
Month <number></number>	Day and Month	All date fields
<number> Weekday in Month</number>		Holiday, DaylightSavingPeriod
Last Weekday In Month	Last weekday of month	Holiday, DaylightSayingPeriod

Table 2. Weather File Date Field Interpretation

In the table, Month can be one of (January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December). Abbreviations of the first three characters are also valid.

In the table, Weekday can be one of (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday). Abbreviations of the first three characters are also valid.

```
!ESP-r/EnergyPlus Weather Format
!22 November 1999
LOCATION,
  Al, \field city
   \type alpha
  A2, \field State Province Region
   \type alpha
  A3, \field Country
   \type alpha
  A4, \field Source
   \type alpha
  N1, \field WMO
   \type integer
  N2 , \field Latitude
       \units deg
       \min -90.0
       \max +90.0
       \default 0.0
       \note + is North, - is South,
       \note degree minutes represented in decimal (i.e. 30 minutes is .5)
       \type real
  N3 , \field Longitude \units deg
       \minimum -180.0
       \maximum +180.0
       \default 0.0
       \note - is West, + is East,
       \note degree minutes represented in decimal (i.e. 30 minutes is .5)
       \type real
  N4 , \fill TimeZone
       \units hr - not on standard units list
       \minimum -12.0
       \max +12.0
       \default 0.0
       \note \,\, Time relative to \, GMT.
       \type real
  N5 \field Elevation
       \units m
       \minimum -1000.0
       \maximum< +9999.9
       \default 0.0
       \type real
```

```
DESIGN CONDITIONS,
    N1, \field Annual Extreme Daily Mean Maximum Dry Bulb Temperature
         \units C
     N2 \field Annual Extreme Daily Mean Minimum Dry Bulb Temperature
         \units C
     N3, \field Annual Extreme Daily Standard Deviation Maximum Dry Bulb Temperature
         \units C
     N4, \field Annual Extreme Daily Standard Deviation Minimum Dry Bulb Temperature
         \units C
     N5 \field 99.6% Heating Dry Bulb Temperature
         \units C
     N6, \field 99% Heating Dry Bulb Temperature
        \units C
     N7, \field 98% Heating Dry Bulb Temperature
        \units C
     N8, \field 0.4% Cooling Dry Bulb Temperature
        \units C
     N9, \field 0.4% Mean Coincident Wet Bulb Temperature
        \units C
     N10, \field 1.0% Cooling Dry Bulb Temperature
        \units C
     N11, \field 1.0% Mean Coincident Wet Bulb Temperature
        \units C
     N12, \field 2.0% Cooling Dry Bulb Temperature
        \units C
     N13, \field 2.0% Mean Coincident Wet Bulb Temperature
        \units C
     N14, \field 0.4% Cooling Dew Point Temperature
        \units C
     N15, \field 0.4% Mean Coincident Dry Bulb Temperature
        \units C
     N16, \field 0.4% Humidity Ratio {?}],
     N17, field 1.0% Cooling Dew Point Temperature
        \units C
     N18, \field 1.0% Mean Coincident Dry Bulb Temperature
        \units C
     N19, \field 1.0% Humidity Ratio
         \units {?}
     N20, \field 2.0% Cooling Dew Point Temperature
       \units C
     N21, \field 2.0% Mean Coincident Dry Bulb Temperature
        \units C
     N22, \field 2.0% Humidity Ratio
          \units {?}
     N23, \field Daily Range of Dry Bulb Temperature
        \units C
     N23, \field Heating Degree Days Base Temperature
        \units C
     N24, \field Heating Degree Days
     N25, \field Cooling Degree Days Base Temperature
       \units C
     N26 \field Cooling Degree Days
```

```
TYPICAL/EXTREME PERIODS,
   N1, \field Number of Typical/Extreme Periods
   A1, \field Typical/Extreme Period 1
   N2, \field Period 1 Start Date
   N3, \field Period 1 End Date
   A2, \field Typical/Extreme Period 2
   N4, \field Period 2 Start Date
   N5, \field Period 2 End Date
   A3, \field Typical/Extreme Period 3
   N6, \field Period 3 Start Date
   N7, \field Period 3 Start Date
   N7, \field Period 3 End Date
   A4, \field Typical/Extreme Period 4
   N8, \field Period 4 Start Date
   N9, \field Period 4 End Date
   N9, \field Period 4 End Date
   -- etc to # of periods entered
```

```
GROUND TEMPERATURES,
    N1, Number of Ground Temperature Depths
     N2, \field Ground Temperature Depth 1
         \units m
      N3, \field Depth 1 Soil Conductivity
         \units W/m-K,
      N4, \field Depth 1 Soil Density
        \units kg/m3
      N5, \field Depth 1 Soil Specific Heat
        \units J/kg-K,
       N6, \field Depth 1 January Average Ground Temperature
       \units C
       N7, \field Depth 1 February Average Ground Temperature
       \units C
       N8, \field Depth 1 March Average Ground Temperature
        \units C
       N9, \field Depth 1 April Average Ground Temperature
        \units C
       N10, \field Depth 1 May Average Ground Temperature
       \units C
      N11, \field Depth 1 June Average Ground Temperature
        \units C
      N12, \field Depth 1 July Average Ground Temperature
       \units C
       N13, \field Depth 1 August Average Ground Temperature
        \units C
       N14, \field Depth 1 September Average Ground Temperature
       \units C
       N15, \field Depth 1 October Average Ground Temperature
        \units C
       N16, \field Depth 1 November Average Ground Temperature
        \units C
       N17, \field Depth 1 December Average Ground Temperature
        \units C
 etc to # of depths entered
```

```
HOLIDAYS/DAYLIGHT SAVING,
A1, \field LeapYear Observed
\type choice
\key Yes
\key No
\note Yes if Leap Year will be observed for this file
\note No if Leap Year days (29 Feb) should be ignored in this file
N2, \field Daylight Saving Start Date
N3, \field Daylight Saving End Date
A2, \field Holiday 1 Name
N4, \field Holiday 1 Date
A3, \field Holiday 2 Name
N5, \field Holiday 2 Date
A4, \field Holiday 3 Name
N6, \field Holiday 3 Date
-- etc to # of Holidays entered
```

```
COMMENTS 1, A1 \field Comments 1]
COMMENTS 2, A1 \field Comments 2]
```

```
DATA PERIODS,
    N1, \field Number of Data Periods
    N2, \field Number of Records per hour
    A1, \field Data Period 1 Name/Description
    A2, \field Data Period 1 Start Day of Week
    \type choice
    \key Sunday
    \key Monday
    \key Mednesday
    \key Wednesday
    \key Thursday
    \key Friday
    \key Saturday
    N3, \field Data Period 1 Start Date
    N4, \field Data Period 1 End Date
-- etc to # of periods entered
```

```
! Actual data does not have a descriptor
    N1, \field Year
    N2, \field Month
    N3, \field Day
    N4, \field Hour
    N5, \field Minute
    Al, \field Data Source and Uncertainty Flags
    N6, \field Dry Bulb Temperature
       \units C
    N7, \field Dew Point Temperature
       \units C
    N8, \field Relative Humidity
    N9, \field Atmospheric Station Pressure
        \units Pa
    N10, \field Extraterrestrial Horizontal Radiation
       \units Wh/m2
    N11, \field Extraterrestrial Direct Normal Radiation
       \units Wh/m2
    N12, \field Horizontal Infrared Radiation from Sky
       \units Wh/m2
    N13, \field Global Horizontal Radiation
        \units Wh/m2
    N14, \field Direct Normal Radiation
        \units Wh/m2
    N15, \field Diffuse Horizontal Radiation
        \units Wh/m2
    N16, \field Global Horizontal Illuminance
       \units lux
    N17, \field Direct Normal Illuminance
       \units lux
    N18, \field Diffuse Horizontal Illuminance
       \units lux
    N19, \field Zenith Luminance
       \units Cd/m2
    N20, \field Wind Direction
       \units degrees
    N21, \field Wind Speed
       \units m/s
    N22, \field Total Sky Cover N23, \field Opaque Sky Cover
    N24, \field Visibility
       \units km
    N25, \field Ceiling Height
       \units m
    N26, \field Present Weather Observation
    N27, \field Present Weather Codes
    N28, \field Precipitable Water
       \units mm
    N29, \field Aerosol Optical Depth
       \units thousandths
    N30, \field Snow Depth
       \units cm
    N31 \field Days Since Last Snowfall
```

RUNNING ENERGYPLUS REPORT VARIABLE

#### Running EnergyPlus

EnergyPlus is written in language conforming to Fortran Standard 90/95. It runs as a 32 bit console (non-Windows) application on Intel compatible computers (Windows NT, Windows 95/98). More explicit details on running EnergyPlus are available in a separate document (Running EnergyPlus in Getting Started). The following files are used to run EnergyPlus:

```
EnergyPlus.exe (the executable file)
Energy+.ini (described below)
Energy+.idd (the input data dictionary file)
In.idf (the input file)
In.epw - optional (weather data file)
```

The input data dictionary and input data file have been discussed in the previous sections of this document.

For weather simulations, EnergyPlus accepts EnergyPlus weather files. Previous versions accepted BLAST formatted weather files and now a BLASTWeatherConverter program is provided. The actual file name is **in.epw**.

The Energy+.ini file is a "standard" Windows™ ini file and can be manipulated using the Windows API calls though EnergyPlus uses standard Fortran to manipulate it. It is a very simple ini file and an example is shown below:

```
[program]
dir=D:\energyplus\
```

The [program] section with the "dir" keyword gives EnergyPlus the directory where to find the Energy+.idd file. This path is used in the "Open" statement. If you leave it blank, EnergyPlus will expect to find it in the directory where the program is running. Energy+.ini and in.idf file should be in the directory from which you are running EnergyPlus.exe.

For the advanced user, there is also the "EPMacro" program, described in "Error! Reference source not found.". You run it as a separate program before EnergyPlus (the batch file included in the install and shown in the GettingStarted document contains the commands).

EnergyPlus creates the following files:

Table 3. EnergyPlus Output Files

FileName	Description
Audit.out	Echo of input
Eplusout.err	Error file
Eplusout.eso	Standard Output File
Eplusout.eio	One time output file
Eplusout.rdd	Report Variable Data Dictionary
Eplusout.dxf	DXF (from Report,Surfaces,DXF;)
Eplusout.end	A one line summary of success or failure

RUNNING ENERGYPLUS REPORT VARIABLE

The eplusout.err file may contain three levels of errors (Warning, Severe, Fatal) as well as the possibility of just message lines. These errors may be duplicated in other files (such as the standard output file).

Table 4. EnergyPlus Errors

Error Level	Action
Warning	Take note
Severe	Should Fix
Fatal	Program will abort

EnergyPlus produces several messages as it is executing, as a guide to its progress. For example, the run of the 1ZoneUncontrolled input file from Appendix B produces:

EnergyPlus Starting
Warming up
Initializing Response Factors
Initializing Window Coefs
Initializing Solar Calculations
Warming up
Warming up
Performing Simulation
Warming up
Initializing Solar Calculations
Warming up
Warming up
Warming up
Performing Simulation
EnergyPlus Completed Successfully

Extensive timing studies and fine-tuning of EnergyPlus is NOT complete. To give you an idea of comparable run times, we present the following (does not include HVAC) with an early version of EnergyPlus running on a 450MHZ machine. Remember, BLAST would be 1 calculation per hour, EnergyPlus (in this case) was 4 calculations per hour.

File	BLAST Per Zone	EnergyPlus Per Zone
GeometryTest (5 Zones, 2 Design Day, Full Weather Year)	13 sec	33 sec
SolarShadingTest (9 Zones, Full Weather Year)	7 sec	25 sec

Table 5. Timings Comparison (EnergyPlus vs. BLAST)

APPENDIX A. SIMPLE IDF FILE REPORT VARIABLE

#### Appendix A. Simple IDF file

```
! 1ZoneUncontrolled.idf
! Basic file description: Basic test for EnergyPlus
! Run: 2 design days.
! Building: Fictional 1 zone building with resistive walls. No floor. No Roof.
! Internal: None.
! System: None.
! Plant:
! 4/7/00 -- Updated with most "detailed" models for this input file:
! SolDis=-1, Aniso, Detailed Interior and Exterior Convection
Lead Input;
Location, DENVER COLORADO,
                                     !- Location Name
   39.750, !- Latitude
 -104.870, !- Longitude
 -7.0, !- Time Zone
1610.26; !- Elevation {m}
 DesignDay, DENVER COLORADO WINTER,
                                              !- Design Day Name
 DesignDay, DENVER COLORADO WINTER, !- Design Day Name
-17.2222 , !- Max Dry-Bulb {C}
0.000000E+00, !- Daily Temp Range {C}
-17.2222 , !- Wet-Bulb at Max {C}
83361.40 , !- Barometric Pressure {N/M**2}
4.115816 , !- Wind Speed {M/Sec}
169.0000 , !- Wind Direction {Degrees N=0, S=180}
0.0000000E+00, !- Clearness {0.0 to 1.1}
0, !- Rain {0-no,1-yes}
0, !- Snow on ground {0-no,1-yes}
21. !- Day of Month
                   !- Day of Month
            21,
            1,
                    !- Month
      Monday, !- Day Type
0; !- Daylight Savings Time Indicator
 DesignDay, DENVER COLORADO SUMMER, !- Design Day Name
   32.77778 , !- Max Dry-Bulb {C}
17.77778 , !- Daily Temp Range {C}
15.00000 , !- Wet-Bulb at Max {C}
84058.15 , !- Barometric Pressure {N/M**2}
   15.00000
           3.971544
   146.0000
   1.100000
                    !- Month
            7,
                     !- Day Type
       Monday,
            0; !- Daylight Savings Time Indicator
MATERIAL: Regular-R, R13LAYER, !- Material Name
Rough, !- Roughness
   2.290965 , !- Resistance \{m2-K/w\}
  0.9000000
               , !- Thermal Emittance, !- Solar Absorptance; !- Visible Absorptance
                     !- Thermal Emittance
  0.7500000
 0.7500000
 CONSTRUCTION, R13WALL, ! Material layer names follow:
 GroundTemperatures, 1.22222233E+01, 1.27777786E+01, 1.44444447E+01, 1.66666679E+01, 1.94444447E+01,
2.33333340E+01, 2.2222233E+01, 2.00000000E+01, 1.77777786E+01, 1.66666679E+01, 1.44444447E+01,
1.27777786E+01;
 End Lead Input;
 Simulation Data;
TIMESTEP IN HOUR,
 BUILDING, NONE, ! Building Name
 0.0000000E+00, ! Building Azimuth
           2, ! Building Terrain
  3.9999999E-02, ! Loads Convergence Tolerance
  4.0000002E-03, ! Temperature Convergence Tolerance
            -1; ! Solar Distribution
            ! -1 is appropriate Solar Distributione -- this has no floor
 SKY RADIANCE DISTRIBUTION, 1;
 SOLUTION ALGORITHM, 0; ! Solution Algorithm
```

APPENDIX A. SIMPLE IDF FILE REPORT VARIABLE

```
INSIDE CONVECTION ALGORITHM, 1; ! Inside Convection Algorithm
 OUTSIDE CONVECTION ALGORITHM,1; ! Outside Convection Algorithm
 ZONE, ZONE ONE, ! Zone Name
 0.0000000E+00, ! Zone North Axis (relative to Building) 0.0000000E+00, ! Zone X Origin \{\mathfrak{m}\}
  0.0000000E+00, ! Zone Y Origin {m}
  0.0000000E+00,
                  ! Zone Z Origin {m}
          1, ! Zone Type
1, ! Zone Multiplier
  -100.0000
                ! Zone Ceiling Height \{m\}
 0.0000000E+00;
                  ! Zone Volume {m**3}
 ScheduleType,Fraction, 0.0 : 1.0 ,CONTINUOUS;
 WEEKSCHEDULE,TransWeekOn,TransDayOn,TransDayOn,TransDayOn,TransDayOn,TransDayOn,TransDayOn,TransDayOn,TransDayOn,Tran
sDayOn, TransDayOn, TransDayOn, TransDayOn, TransDayOn;
{\tt WEEKSCHEDULE}, {\tt TransWeekOff}, {\tt TransDayOff}, {\tt TransDayOff}, {\tt TransDayOff}, {\tt TransDayOff}, {\tt TransDayOff}, {\tt TransDayOff}
Off, TransDayOff, TransDayOff, TransDayOff, TransDayOff;
SCHEDULE, TransOn, Fraction, TransWeekOn, 1, 1, 12, 31;
! BLAST Translator units, UpperLeftCorner, Counter Clock-Wise, World Coordinate System
 ! Note original Building and Zone Origins are retained
SurfaceGeometry, UpperLeftCorner, CounterClockWise, WorldCoordinateSystem;
 Surface: HeatTransfer, Zn001: Wall001, !- Base Surface Name
 Wall,R13WALL, !- Class and Construction Name
  ZONE ONE, !- Zone
 ExteriorEnvironment,, !- Exterior Conditions and Target (if applicable)
  SunExposed, !- Solar Exposure
  WindExposed, !- Wind Exposure
  0.5000000
             , !- VF to Ground
          4, !-Rectangle
  0.0000000E+00, 0.0000000E+00, 4.572000
  0.0000000E+00, 0.0000000E+00, 0.0000000E+00,
  15.24000 , 0.0000000E+00, 0.0000000E+00, 15.24000 , 0.0000000E+00, 4.572000 ;
 Surface: HeatTransfer, Zn001: Wall002, !- Base Surface Name
 Wall,R13WALL, !- Class and Construction Name
  ZONE ONE, !- Zone
 ExteriorEnvironment,, !- Exterior Conditions and Target (if applicable)
  SunExposed, !- Solar Exposure
  WindExposed, !- Wind Exposure
  0.5000000
            , !- VF to Ground
         4, !-Rectangle
  15.24000 , 0.0000000E+00,
                                 4.572000
            , 0.0000000E+00, 0.0000000E+00,
  15.24000
             , 15.24000 , 0.0000000E+00,
, 15.24000 , 4.572000 ;
  15.24000
  15.24000
 Surface: HeatTransfer, Zn001: Wall003, !- Base Surface Name
  Wall, R13WALL, !- Class and Construction Name
  ZONE ONE, !- Zone
  ExteriorEnvironment,, !- Exterior Conditions and Target (if applicable)
  SunExposed, !- Solar Exposure
  WindExposed, !- Wind Exposure
            , !- VF to Ground
  0.5000000
          4, !-Rectangle
  15.24000 , 15.24000
                                 4.572000
                              , 0.000000E+00,
                 15.24000
                             , 0.0000000E+00,
  0.0000000E+00, 15.24000
  0.0000000E+00,
                  15.24000
                                  4.572000
 Surface: HeatTransfer, Zn001: Wall004, !- Base Surface Name
  Wall, R13WALL, !- Class and Construction Name
  ZONE ONE, !- Zone
  ExteriorEnvironment,, !- Exterior Conditions and Target (if applicable)
  SunExposed, !- Solar Exposure
  WindExposed, !- Wind Exposure
             , !- VF to Ground
  0.5000000
          4, !-Rectangle
  0.0000000E+00, 15.24000
                                  4.572000
                                0.0000000E+00,
  0.000000E+00,
                  15.24000
  0.0000000E+00, 0.0000000E+00, 0.0000000E+00,
```

APPENDIX A. SIMPLE IDF FILE REPORT VARIABLE

```
0.0000000E+00, 0.000000E+00, 4.572000 ;
report variable,*,outdoor dry bulb,hourly;
report variable,*,mean air temperature,hourly;
report variable,*,Zone-Total Latent Gain,hourly;
report variable,*,Zone-Total Electric Consumption,hourly;
report variable,*,mean radiant temperature,hourly;
Report variable,*,Surface Inside Temperature,daily;
Report variable,*,Surface Outside Temperature,daily;
Report variable,*,Surface Int Convection Coeff,daily;
Report variable,*,Surface Ext Convection Coeff,daily;
report variable dictionary;
report,surfaces,dxf;
report,construction;
End Simulation Data;
```